Amendments to the Drawings

Figs. 5(c) and 6, filed on September 25, 2006, have been canceled. Two new replacement sheets including Figs. 5(a), 5(b), 5(c) and 6 have been filed.

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical error of the specification has been amended. Accordingly, the Fig. 6 has been canceled, and a new replacement sheet including Fig. 6 has been filed to correct portions same as the amended portion of the specification. Also, Fig. 5(c) has been canceled, and a new replacement sheet including Figs. 5(a), 5(b), 5(c) has been filed to be consistent with the specification (page 17, line 28 to page 18, line 2).

In the Office Action of December 23, 2008, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujinawa (JP2002/341915) in view of Yamato (USP 6,754,555).

In response to the rejection, claim 6 has been added.

The Examiner is of opinion that Fujinawa does not teach interference boundary positions of the first and second rests, but Yamato does.

Fujinawa discloses a method for machining work in numerically controlled machine tool and its program. Essentially, the method in Fujinawa includes a step to specify a present tool and a next tool, steps to index the present tool and to perform a machining of the work, a step to index the next tool, a step to decide whether or not it is a timing for movement of the next tool during the machining of the work by the present tool, a step to move the next tool to the work side when it is decided that it is the timing, a step to perform retreat movement of the present tool from the work after completion of the machining of the work by the next tool substantially simultaneously with separation of the present tool from the work by the retreat movement.

Yamato teaches an interference preventing apparatus which performs an interference checking operation for plural interfering relationships between a movable member and a structural member. The interference checking section 53 checks for a possibility of the

interference and if the possibility of the interference is confirmed, the interference checking section 53 outputs a drive stopping signal to drive controlling section 64, and outputs an alarm display signal to the alarm section 54.

In Yamato, it is disclosed that, if the possibility of the interference is confirmed, the interference checking section 53 outputs a drive stopping signal to drive controlling section 64, and outputs an alarm display signal to the alarm section 54.

Here, it should be noted that Yamato discloses the interference only between a tool post and a spindle portion (Figs. 6 and 7: tool posts 104, 105, 107, 108 and spindle portions 106, 109, 110).

Therefore, in Yamato, it is not taught or suggested an interference relationship between the two tool rests moving each other, or that the method includes a step of obtaining, for both the first tool rest and the second tool rest, interference boundary positions at which the first tool rest and the second tool rest are in proximity but do not interfere with each other, as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Also, the last two steps in claim 1 of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in both cited references.

Furthermore, the steps recited in the present invention involving the interference boundary position do not exist in any one of cited references.

Because of such steps using the interference boundary position, the present invention reduces the time for changing the tools and the time for an overall machining process.

The cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention. Claim 1 and its depending claims should be allowable over the cited references.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are courteously solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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annotated sheet

FIG. 5(a)

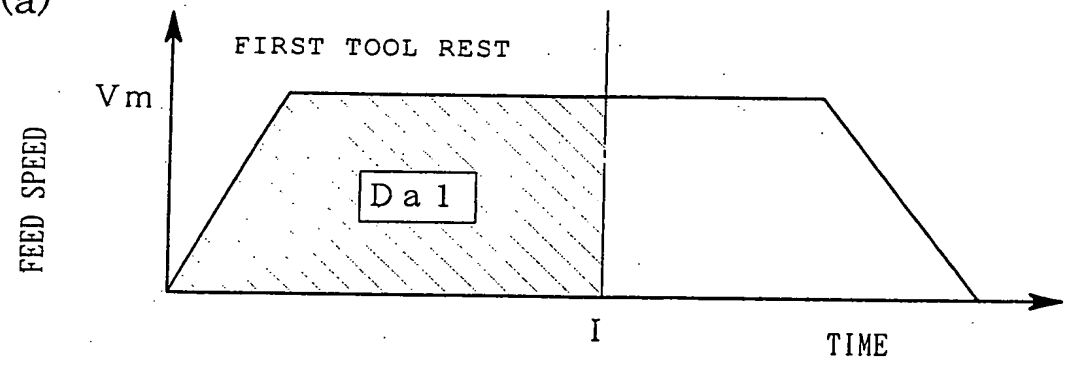

FIG. 5(b)

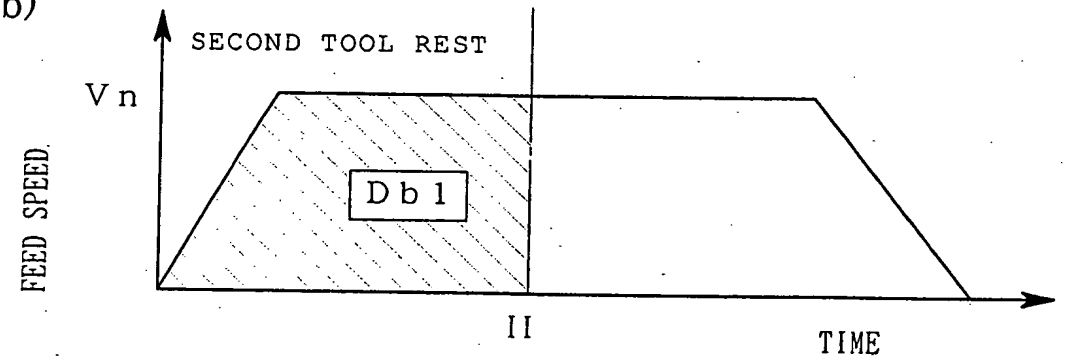

FIG. 5(c)

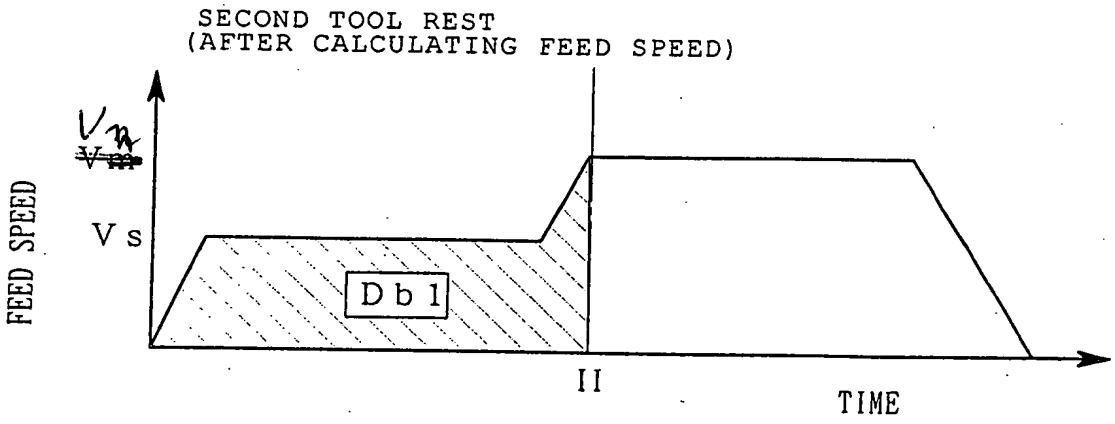

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FIG. 6